AFL WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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# U.S. Faces March 1 Deadline Without Wage Formula

GREEN WELCOMES AUSTRIAN EDITORS.—Washington.—AFL President William Green (center) welcomes to AFL headquarters Karl Ausch (left), economics editor of Arbeiter Zietung, the "Workers News Paper," largest daily in Austria, and Ernst Lakenbacher, editor press service of the Chamber of Labor, Vienna, and leader of a team of Vienna editors who completed 6-week study of productivity in United States with visit to Washington AFL national offices.

## High Court Kills State Public Utility Strike Prohibition

Washington.—The U. S. Supreme Court killed 6 to 3 the Wisconsin law which banned strikes by public utility workers and required them to submit labor disputes to compulsory arbitration.

The decision puts in jeopardy similar laws in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Massachusetts, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and Virginia. AFL state federations are working for repeal of these measures in legislatures meeting this year.

The suit, which led to the important decision, was brought by the AFL Amalgamated Street Electric and Railway and Motor Coach Employes Division 998 against the Milwaukee Electric Railway and Transportation Co.

The union voted to go on strike Jan. 5, 1949, after negotiations for a new contract failed. The Milwaukee circuit court issued and Wisconsin State Supreme Court upheld a permanent injunction against the strike.

In other cases the court:

1. Ruled that the Taft-Hartley Act gives federal courts vastly broadened power over National Labor Relations Board orders, the majority holding that "courts must now assume more responsibility for the reasonableness and fairness of Labor Board decisions than some courts have shown in the past."

2. Agreed to decide whether the Taft-Hartley law's noncommunist oath requirement applies to officers of "parent" labor federations such as the AFL.

## Insurance Agents Gain $5-$9 Weekly

Washington. — The AFL National Federation of Insurance Agents' Council, the only national trade union exclusively for insurance agents, has completed negotiations with 3 major insurance firms resulting in new contracts providing for pay increases for several thousand agents throughout the United States.

NFIAC President George L. Russ said that the companies involved are the American National Life Insurance Co. (for agents throughout the United States); the Baltimore Life Insurance Co. (for agents employed in Baltimore, Md., and Washington, D. C.), and the Monumental Life Insurance Co. (for agents employed in the state of Missouri and the cities of Philadelphia and Baltimore).

"Weekly wage raises range from $5 to $9," Russ revealed, adding that "each contract, however, includes many new concessions for the agents affected."

## Building Trades See No Pay Relief

Washington. — There's no relief from the wage freeze for AFL Building and Construction Trades Department representing more than 2 million workers getting ready to start a new season.

The department bulletin said:

"Nothing the Wage Stabilization Board has yet done to relax the general wage freeze will affect building tradesmen.

"Since the conditions in the building and construction industry are so different from those in other major industries, some special arrangement will have to be worked out to handle the problems of the industry. This was done in World War II."

## Defense Set-Up Fails To Unsnarl Workers From Red Tape

Washington.—The government faced a crucial March 1 deadline without a wage formula to meet the needs of the nation's workers.

The United Labor Policy Committee battled with Defense Mobilization Czar Charles E. Wilson and Economic Stabilization Administrator Eric Johnston for a fair deal in the stabilization of wages, price and rent controls, manpower policies and participation at all levels in the defense program.

Despite almost daily conferences among the big business executives running the defense program and between them and spokesmen for united labor, the wage freeze put into effect last Jan. 25 held tight.

Hundreds of contracts were caught in the freeze, including agreements signed in 1950 and before providing for automatic cost-of-living increases on March 1, 1951. Under the total pay freeze of Jan. 25, these contracts are abrogated.

The industry and management members of the Wage Stabilization Board voted on Feb. 15, 6 to 3, over labor members' opposition to relax this freeze only enough to permit general pay raises of 10 percent above the Jan. 15, 1950, level. The proposed order, subject to approval of Mr. Johnston, would include fringe benefits like pensions and welfare funds and the correction of inequities in the 10 percent. Labor has urged its rejection.

The labor members resigned from the board in protest and the United Labor Policy Committee has advised President Truman, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Johnston that workers must be given greater consideration and more voice in the entire defense mobilization.

In other developments:

1. Price Stabilization Director Michael V. DiSalle prepared an order permitting retailers outside the food business to continue their present percentage mark-ups of consumer prices. Its immediate effect will be to raise a lot of prices on all cost-of-living items.

2. The Senate Banking and Currency Committee approved a 90-day extension of federal rent controls beyond the March 31 expiration.

3. Mr. Wilson made a report to the country on the progress of defense mobilization and also refused in a letter to accede to labor's request to keep manpower policies under Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin.

## U. S. Permanently Enjoins Trainmen; Senate Probes Steelman's Conduct

Washington. — The U. S. Circuit Court in Chicago issued a permanent injunction against the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen from striking as long as the railroads are in federal custody.

The roads have been under government operation since last August, seized when the Trainmen and other operating unions threatened to strike to settle a wage dispute pending since 1949.

The government refuses to negotiate with the unions and has so far failed to mediate a settlement. In addition to this hoary dispute, the White House has now intervened through John R. Steelman, presidential assistant, in the nonoperating unions' demand for a 25 cents an hour pay boost.

Meanwhile a Senate subcommittee began an investigation of Mr. Steelman's meddling in the nationwide rail disputes.

Sen. James E. Murray, chairman of the committee, said rail negotiations did not appear any nearer settlement now than when they started in March 1949, and that the dispute was "a threat to our economy and defense effort."

"It is difficult to believe men of good faith cannot settle almost any dispute in a period of 2 years," Senator Murray stated. "Surely, if they can't do it in 2 years they won't do it in 4 or 10."

W. E. B. Chase, vice president of the Trainmen, told the committee that Mr. Steelman has established "an all-time low for morality in public office."

"I wish to make it perfectly clear to the Senate, the public and the President that we do not want Steelman in our contract for any length of time. We regard his attempts to defend while acting as mediator in our dispute as establishing a new all-time low for morality in public office, even measured by present-day standards," Mr. Chase said.

The committee also heard D. B. Robertson, president of the Brotherhood of Firemen and Enginemen, take a shot at Dr. Steelman on the whole question of "government interference."

## AFL Hits Rent Hike At Atomic Plants

PAY TRIBUTE

Arlington National Cemetery.—Chris Jecchinis, member white collar union and captain of all-labor Greek productivity team here under Economic Cooperation Administration program, lays wreath at Tomb of Unknown Soldier before team departs for Greece.

Washington. — The Atomic Energy Commission has announced rent increases effective next Aug. 1 on government-owned houses at Oak Ridge, Tenn., and Hanford, Wash., even though the government has frozen wages and is insisting on observance of rent ceilings by private landlords.

James A. Brownlow, president AFL Metal Trades Department, has asked Commission Chairman Gordon Dean and Sen. Brien McMahon, chairman Joint Atomic Energy Committee in Congress, for conferences to hear AFL opposition to the proposed rent hikes.

The order, Mr. Brownlow told Mr. Dean, "is completely unwarranted and in direct conflict with the spirit enunciated by Congress, of rent control, and also contrary to the declarations by the President of the United States in his issuance of orders limiting wage and price increases."

"The order is responsible for a current of unrest and dissatisfaction among the employes of atomic energy installations at both Oak Ridge and Hanford."

Mr. Brownlow told Senator McMahon that the employes "are faced with the entirely incongruous situation of having the government freeze their wages, while in turn the same government, as their landlord, increases their rents, and contrary to that same government's declaration that rents cannot be increased."

In reply to Mr. Brownlow's initial protest Oscar S. S. Smith, deputy AEC director of organization, said the 6-months' advance notice of a rent increase would work no hardship on the tenants and that the new rents were fixed by "independent real estate appraisers" which Mr. Brownlow noted included no representatives of the AFL and was rigged "in the interests of creating a report favorable to real estate operations."

"The adjustment of rents was not occasioned by an increase in the cost of operations," Mr. Smith admitted.

The AFL Metal Trades Department represents employes at Oak Ridge and Hanford.

## Green Urges Senate Extend Rent Curbs; Committee Agrees

Washington.—AFL President William Green told Congress that the present rent control program should be extended and strengthened.

Acting partly on his testimony, the Senate Banking Committee asked the Senate to approve a 90-day extension of controls from their present March 31 expiration to next June 30.

Committee Chairman Burnet Maybank said that meanwhile hearings would be started in March on adding a Federal Rent Control section to the Defense Production Act.

This was the first sign of congressional action on the United Labor Policy Committee's criticism of the Defense Mobilization Administration for its failures to come up with a satisfactory overall stabilization that would hold down the cost of living.

In his testimony, President Green urged also that sufficient funds be appropriated to meet the acute shortage of housing for defense workers.

"We consider good housing a fundamental part of the heritage which every American family has the right to enjoy," Mr. Green reminded Congress in testifying in favor of the Defense Housing and Community Facilities Act (S. 340) before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee.

He said AFL unions report an increasingly serious shortage of housing for workers in defense areas.

"Any delay in providing homes for defense workers would constitute not only a personal handicap to the workers needing the housing, but also a very real handicap to our entire defense program," Mr. Green said. "To prevent any such delays, we urge swift action by this committee, the Congress and the housing agencies.

"The 8 million members of the American Federation of Labor have a particularly great stake in the defense housing program. Many of the 2 million members of our building trades unions will be instrumental in the actual construction of these projects. Additional hundreds of thousands of our members, employed in installations and plants in defense areas all over the country, must be assured of adequate housing for themselves and their families."

### OPENS GENEVA OFFICE

Geneva, Switzerland.—The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions opened an office at 15 Rue Necker Feb. 1, in charge of Herman Patteet of the ICFTU secretariat.

## AFL Trounces CIO At Oak Ridge In Atomic Campaign

Oak Ridge, Tenn.—The AFL Atomic Trades and Labor Council trounced the CIO United Chemical Workers by a better than 3 to 1 vote in a 1,600-man bargaining unit in the Y-12 plant of the Atomic Energy Commission operated by the Union Carbide and Carbon Chemical Corp.

The vote was AFL 785, CIO 69, in a National Labor Relations Board election.

Southern AFL Director of Organization J. L. Rhodes said the victory gives the AFL the most effective bargaining position at Oak Ridge.

The AFL now represents 3 of the major units plus many smaller units in the atomic operation and associated employment. This leaves CIO with only one major unit which is known as the K-25 plant.

Organizer Kenneth Scott, stationed at Oak Ridge, predicts that the employes of the K-25 plant, now represented in collective bargaining by CIO, will immediately change their affiliation in order that the bargaining at Oak Ridge may be unified.

Mr. Rhodes said the influence of winning the Y-12 plant election by such a large majority will have a far-reaching effect on other units to be voted at Oak Ridge and the units at Aiken, S. C.; Paducah, Ky., and Amarillo, Texas, where campaigns are in progress.

# Woll Tells C. of C. Business Should Pay More School Taxes

Washington.—AFL Vice President Matthew Woll bluntly told Chamber of Commerce spokesmen that business should pay more taxes for support of public schools.

The clash occurred at the all-day Conference on Federal Aid to Education called by the AFL American Federation of Teachers in which representatives of more than 100 national organizations participated.

Mr. Woll challenged the contention of Dr. John Miles, research director of the Education Department of the Chamber of Commerce, that the states and local communities were capable of improving schools.

Recalling how organized labor has been fighting for compulsory free education every American child ever since the early 1800s, Mr. Woll called for enactment of President Truman's proposal for spending $300 million in the coming year in grants to the states for education.

Especially in a time of emergency, "public education and its necessary support in our opinion is one of the essentials that should be given priority and first consideration," Mr. Woll said.

The "chaotic tax situation" which causes cities, states and the federal government to feud over sources of revenue should not be allowed to harm the children of the country, Mr. Woll asserted.

The Chamber of Commerce spokesman had proposed that states and cities impose sales taxes and increase taxes on farmers. Farmers, he said, are "getting a free ride."

Speaking for the AFL, Mr. Woll advised the C of C man to add higher taxes on manufacturers to his list of sources for school funds.

Besides the question of whether federal funds are needed, the conferees heard discussions of 3 other highly controversial questions relating to federal aid to education legislation. These involved whether funds should go to services for nonpublic school children, whether funds should go to segregated school systems, and whether there were dangers inherent in any set of federal fiscal standards in such legislation.

"This conference is a sounding board," President John Eklund of AFT told the delegates in opening the sessions. He expressed the hope that "out of hearing the sharply differing viewpoints presented here fairly and calmly, organizations can find the common areas of agreement." He indicated that the union, like each of the national organizations represented, wished to find where it agreed and differed with the others, before proceeding to press its own 5-point federal aid program before the Congress.

Speakers at the sessions, which were recorded by radio station WCFM for later broadcast, included Rep. Tom Steed (D., Okla.), who urged that federal controls be strictly limited to fiscal ones, and Arthur Elder, tax consultant to the AFL, who listed the federal standards on which there appeared to be no conflict in Congress.

Stating the issues involved in aid to church-supported schools were Edward Heffron, community relations director of Johnson & Johnson in New Brunswick, N. J., and Dr. J. M. Dawson, director of public relations for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

On the question of aid to segregated school systems, the discussion was started off by Frank Reeves, Washington legal representative of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, and Willard Millsaps, a classroom teacher from Chattanooga, Tenn.

The American Federation of Teachers believes that adequate and proper financing of American public education is essential to the welfare of the nation. As the taxable resources of some states cannot yield enough to enable them to finance their educational systems properly, great inequalities in educational opportunities have arisen among the several states. Then, too, state funds for educational opportunities for children are not equitably distributed within all the states.

The national government has an obligation to help make available to all children in all states adequate educational opportunities. Therefore, the American Federation of Teachers has, since 1916, supported federal aid to education. The federation now supports a 5-point program on federal aid to education.

1. Federal aid for public school teachers' salaries, distributed among and within the states in such a manner as to bring about a more nearly equitable distribution of opportunities within and among the states.

2. Federal aid for public school construction.

3. Federal aid for loans and scholarships for students.

4. Federal aid for and welfare services for all children.

5. Federal aid to help eradicate adult illiteracy.

The American Federation of Teachers defines health and welfare services as including "(a) health services including psychiatric aids; (b) recreation services including vacation and camp programs; (c) school lunches; (d) public library service" but excluding transportation.

The American Federation of Labor includes the services supported by the American Federation of Teachers and also supports aid to all children for transportation.

### SIMMONS SUCCUMBS

Philadelphia.—George T. Simmons, publisher for 20 years of The Progressive Labor World and a 55-year member of the AFL International Printing Pressmen and Assistants Union, died Jan. 14.

# Green Praises Jewish Committee's Fight Against Soviet Communism

Atlantic City, N. J.—AFL President William Green praised "the value of the work and service rendered by the Jewish Labor Committee which will ever stand as a challenge to our admiration."

His greeting was sent to the annual meeting of the committee's national executive committee. Chairman Adolph Held said in his opening address that the fight of the committee against dictatorship and communism must continue.

In his greetings, Mr. Green said:

"The value of the work and service rendered by the Jewish Labor Committee cannot be adequately appraised. It is a kind and character of service which must ever stand as a challenge to our admiration.

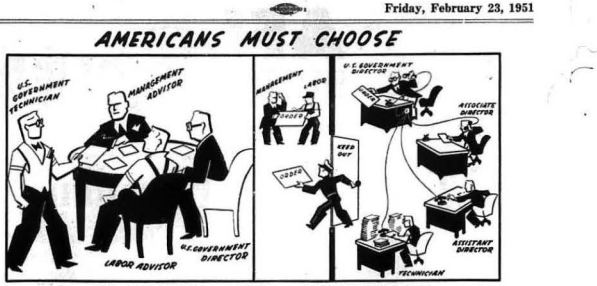
"It has rendered active support to the free labor movement throughout the world. It was one among the first organizations that called the attention of the world to the menace of Hitlerism and Fascism. It extended aid and assistance to the underground democratic trade union movement of Europe during the dark days of Hitlerism.

"It served to rescue from the clutches of Fascism thousands of trade unionists and their families who suffered indescribable hardships and it has always centered its efforts toward promoting human values and the protection of human life."

Mr. Held reviewed the relief and rehabilitation work of the JLC in Europe, and the building and maintenance of various important child care institutions, cooperatives, as well as the aid Jewish labor in the U. S. is now extending to the new state of Israel.

"In the past year," he said, "the outside world began to see more clearly the danger of communism, the menace of a frightful imperialism coming from the Soviet Union, the danger of a third world war.

"There is no people on earth' that has suffered so much from communism as have the Jewish people. Behold the ruins of Jewish life in the Soviet Union: the last Jewish writer is gone; the Jewish word is muted. Take a look at the countries behind the Iron Curtain—Romania, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia. See what communism did to the Jewish people there. Not a single Jewish institution remains. Not a single Jewish school nor a Jewish cultural organization is permitted to function."




**Washington.—Americans may have to live in a "garrison state" for many years to come, under government controls which will limit their freedom. The danger is that dictation by government bureaucracies will replace free initiative and teamwork in industrial life. The only safeguard is to see that representatives of labor and management work closely with government directors as consultants or advisors with a voice in policy-making decisions.**
—AFL Labor's Monthly Survey

# ICFTU Asks UN Probe Red Labor

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent AFL News Service

New York.—The United Nations will hear from spokesmen for free world labor an expose of the pattern of destruction which the Soviet Union has visited on the trade union movements of the satellite countries which it has overrun.

More importantly, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, representing 51,000,000 trade unionists in 60 countries, will stress that these violations of trade union rights by the Soviet Union is a matter of world concern which the United Nations should investigate.

The issue will come before the session of the UN Economic and Social Council beginning Feb. 20 in Santiago, Chile, where a three-member delegation of the ICFTU will raise the issue of the Soviet Union's anti-labor policies.

The three delegates are Arturo Sabroso, president ICFTU's new regional organization for Latin America; Miss Toni Sender, its UN representative, and Arturo Jauregui, who heads the ICFTU's regional office in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Opposing the ICFTU will be the Communist World Federation of Trade Unions, which is sending a six-man delegation of veteran Communists from France, Hungary and Latin America.

The ICFTU and the WFTU both have consultative status to the UN as non-governmental organizations which gives them the right to appear before the world body.

The ICFTU expose will argue:

1. Wherever the Soviet Union "spreads its ice" there the suppression of rights were among the first measures."

2. The Soviet Union has destroyed free trade unions in Roumania, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

3. Forced labor, an integral governmental policy of the USSR, is now part and parcel of the governmental fabric of Soviet satellite countries.

# U. S. Says Housing Supply Falls Short

Washington.—In spite of many improvements over 10 years ago, the nation's housing supply still falls short in both quantity and quality of meeting our long-term needs and, in many areas, of meeting the probable requirements of the defense emergency, Raymond M. Foley, administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, said in commenting on the 1950 housing census data just released.

"While it is not now expected that migration of defense workers in this emergency will be on a scale comparable to that which occurred in World War II, we are in many areas faced with a tighter housing supply than at that time. As a result, such migration of workers as does take place will present serious problems.

"In communities where defense needs cannot be met out of the local labor supply, specific steps will have to be taken to assure adequate housing for immigrant workers if the mobilization effort is to proceed unimpaired."

# These Answers May Get You Pay Raise

**Washington.**—The Wage Stabilization Board issued the following questions and answers on the orders it has handed down to Feb. 15. It said they were intended only as general guides and did not constitute legal rulings. It said all "doubtful cases" should be taken to the local offices of the Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division.

Labor members of the board concurred in these regulations, all issued prior to their resignations on Feb. 16.

**Stabilization Regulation No. 1**

Q. Whom does this regulation cover?

A. All employers or employes who pay or receive wages, salaries or other compensation.

Q. I am an employer in the process of negotiating a collective bargaining contract with my employes. May the contract provide for wage increases?

A. Wage increases may be agreed upon but cannot be put into effect without Wage Stabilization Board approval except to the extent permitted by general regulations issued by the board.

**General Regulation No. 2**

Q. What does this regulation do?

A. Permits the following types of increases without prior approval by the Wage Stabilization Board:

1. Increases provided for by written agreement executed on or before Jan. 25, 1951, or increases formally determined and communicated to the employes on or before Jan. 25, which, by the terms of the agreement or communication, took effect not later than Feb. 9, 1951, and were made applicable to work initially performed not later than Feb. 9, 1951.

2. Increases resulting from the award or decision of an arbitrator or referee issued on or before Jan. 25, 1951, which, by the terms of the award or decision, took effect not later than Feb. 9, 1951, and were applicable to work initially performed not later than Feb. 9, 1951.

3. Increases resulting from agreements executed on or before Jan. 25, 1951, which provide a fixed sum to accomplish intraplant adjustments that were not actually reflected in payments prior to January 25, 1951, because of the necessity for determining the allocation and method of application of such adjustments among different job classifications. (See question and answer below.)

The regulation also requires the filing with the Wage Stabilization Board on or before Feb. 20, 1951, of all agreements or decisions therein covered by the regulation, and, in the absence of any agreement, award or decision, a statement of the amounts and manner in which the determination was formally made and communicated to the employes.

Q. I am an employer. On Jan. 24, 1951, I executed an agreement with my employes providing for a general wage increase to be effective in part on Feb. 1, 1951, and in part on March 1, 1951. May this agreement take effect without board approval?

A. So much of the increase as became effective on Feb. 1, 1951, may be granted without board approval, but the remainder of the increase cannot be granted without first obtaining board approval.

Q. I am an employer with a collective bargaining agreement which provides for a cost-of-living increase to go into effect for work performed on or before Feb. 9, 1951. Can this increase be paid without board approval?

A. Yes, provided the contract was negotiated on or before Jan. 25, 1951, and provided that no further bargaining on the amount or method of computation is required.

Q. I am an employer. On Jan. 25, 1951, I reached an agreement with the representatives of my employes providing for a wage increase to become effective Feb. 1. The agreement was not actually signed, however, until Jan. 26. Must it be approved?

A. So long as the terms of the wage provisions of the agreement were completed and known by both parties on or before Jan. 25, 1951, and the sole act remaining was the signing of the agreement, approval is not required.

Q. I am an employer, who, on Jan. 25, 1951, concluded a collective bargaining agreement providing for a general increase in wages effective immediately for all employes in the bargaining unit. I want now to grant similar increases to employes outside the bargaining unit, as has been my usual practice in the past. Can such increases be made without board approval?

A. No.

Q. I am an employe. On Jan. 25, 1951, an arbitrator awarded me a wage increase effective immediately. I was not notified of this award until Jan. 26. Must I now seek board approval?

A. No.

Q. I am an employer. On Jan. 25, 1951, I entered into an agreement providing for an immediate increase to accomplish intraplant adjustments. In the event that those adjustments were not reflected in wage payments until Feb. 10, 1951, must approval be sought?

A. No.

**General Regulation No. 4**

Q. What does this regulation do?

A. Authorizes increases without prior Wage Stabilization Board approval to state, county, municipal and other nonfederal governmental employes whose compensation is fixed by statute, ordinance or regulation of duly constituted authorities of such governmental bodies. Such increases, however, are expected to conform with the national wage stabilization policy and are subject to possible review by the Wage Stabilization Board.

**General Regulation No. 5**

Q. What does this regulation do?

A. Permits, without prior Wage Stabilization Board approval, certain (1) merit and/or length-of-service increases, (2) promotions and transfers, (3) rates for new and changed jobs, (4) rates for new employes, and (5) variations in individual earnings through incentive rates or plans, shift differentials, commission systems, overtime, premium, or penalty rates, or other similar auxiliary pay practices.

### TAKES TOP SPOT

Ottawa, Canada.—The AFL Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers has climbed to the top of the membership ladder in the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. With 33,138 workers, the union displaced the AFL International Association of Machinists which held the position for many years.

PLEDGE TRUCKING INDUSTRY'S SUPPORT.—Washington.—Dave Beck (center), executive vice president AFL Teamsters Union and chairman of the newly-formed labor-management Trucking Industry National Defense Committee, with Leslie C. Allman (right), president Truck-Trailer Manufacturers Association, pledge full cooperation of the industry in present national emergency to Economic Stabilization Administrator Eric Johnston.

# Government Fails to Relax Bonds on Nation's Workers

## *Sessions With Truman, Johnston, Wilson Unproductive*

Washington.—The crisis over the government's defense mobilization program approached a climax.

Leaders of the United Labor Policy Committee called in person on President Truman, Economic Stabilization Director Eric Johnston, Defense Mobilization Czar Charles E. Wilson and Charles S. Murphy, President Truman's general counsel, to explain the injustices of Mr. Wilson's program thus far.

Mr. Truman reportedly listened sympathetically.

The United Labor group asked that the unjust and unworkable rigid wage regulation No. 6, limiting general pay increases to 10 percent above the Jan. 15, 1950, level, be rejected and then a liberalized order be drafted.

It sought to keep control of civilian manpower policies with Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin, but received another slap in the face from Mr. Wilson in a letter in which he said he must have control of this vital element.

United Labor still had no representative on Mr. Wilson's top staff and had received no public assurances of a workable price control plan, to hold down the roll back, the rising cost of living; a better deal on taxation; extension of federal rent controls.

The deadlock on the disputed wage regulation, passed 6 to 3 by industry and so-called public members over labor's dissent, had created a log-jam of labor-management cases.

Wage Board Chairman Cyrus S. Ching, who is also Federal Mediation Director, said on a radio program that the dispute must be settled quickly in the interest of peace and harmony on the industrial front.

In an apparent split with the industry and other public members of the wage board, Mr. Ching said the wage stabilization agency should also handle disputes. The public-industry clique had opposed this demand made by labor members.

The Administration was trying to patch up the break, but pleaded inability to control Congress on several basic issues, like taxes, rents and prices.

The United Labor Policy Committee was in almost continuous session to consider next steps, while conferences with government officials were still going on.

TELL PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL CRISIS.—Washington.—Leaders of United Labor Policy Committee, speaking for 15 million workers, call at White House to tell President Truman of national crisis created by Defense Mobilization Czar Charles E. Wilson's failures to deal realistically and with statesmanship with wages, prices, taxes, manpower, small business and labor participation in the defense program. L. to r., AFL President William Green, CIO Vice President Emil Rieve, Machinists President A. J. Hayes and Railway Labor Executives Association President George E. Leighty.

# Executive Council Urges Defeat For New York Dictator CD Law

Washington. — The AFL executive council urged overwhelming defeat for the proposed New York State Defense Emergency Act in the New York State Legislature because it would grant "dictatorial power over state and local government, industry, agriculture and labor and over the personal liberty and property of millions of citizens of that state."

The council resolved at its Miami meeting in January to urge its New York State AFL members to work for defeat of this law. It made public its decision together with a legal analysis of the proposed act.

It pointed out that this dictatorial power would include, among other things, the authority to restrict public assembly, seize private property, supercede and suspend many existing state and local laws, authorize dispensations from state labor laws so as to permit longer hours and less strict standards of working conditions, permit the manufacture and sale of prison-made articles and materials necessary to the defense effort, conscript civilian manpower and enforce federal rationing and price fixing.

Sweeping powers are given to a State Defense Council which is authorized to take action or to make effective plans, regulations or orders "with respect to any matter" essential for the purpose of providing "during the defense emergency" for unanticipated or emergency needs.

The Civil Defense Commission is likewise given broad and extensive powers, among them being the power to obtain from any person any and all information necessary for civilian defense, to hold hearings, conduct investigations, compel the giving of testimony, adopt and make effective a comprehensive plan for the civil defense of the state and direct the performance of specific duties by agencies and public officers having administrative responsibilities under the proposed act.

Recognizing the fact that all the resources of the state must be utilized in the event of actual enemy attack, the executive council stated that the proposed legislation goes beyond planning and preparation for effective resistance to actual enemy attack and permits almost unlimited authority and control over the lives and destiny of the people of the state of New York even to the extent of conscription of civilian manpower and the impairment of other fundamental freedoms of citizens immediately upon passage of the act and whenever the governor decides to call this power into play even though there may be no declared state of war and no danger whatever from enemy attack.

# New BLS Index On Living Costs Ready in March

Washington. — Introduction of adjustments to improve the Consumers' Price Index of the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics will delay publication of the January 1951 figures until the first week in March.

Ewan Clague, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, said both the improved adjusted index for January 1951 and the old index, as compiled heretofore, will be issued during the first week in March. The bureau will also publish adjusted figures back to January 1950. The old series will be published along with the new for some months to come — at least through 1951.

Advance announcement of the adjustments to improve the index was first made by the bureau on Oct. 24, 1950, when users of the index were notified that indexes thereafter were subject to revision.

Mr. Clague said that the bureau is recalculating the improved index back to January 1950 so that it will measure price changes over critical periods before and after the outbreak of the Korean war. These recalculated indexes will replace the figures which have been released by the bureau each month during the year 1950.

Continued publication of the old index through the year 1951 is intended as a service for users of the index, in order not to disrupt existing wage contracts which include cost-of-living clauses. Mr. Clague promised the bureau is ready to help labor and management to devise means of switching their escalator clauses from the old to the adjusted index.

The bureau is establishing procedures to keep abreast of changes that may occur under economic mobilization and stabilization programs now developing. Mr. Clague indicated that important changes in consumption because of the shifts to military production and curtailment of consumers' goods will be reflected promptly in the compilation of the index from now on.

The improvements now being introduced into the index include:

1. Correction of the present index to take account of the effects of higher rents charged for newly built rental units.

2. The use of 1950 population figures in combining separate city indexes into a U. S. index.

3. Modernization of the market basket of goods and services priced for the index to reflect postwar consumption and spending habits. Both the items priced and the importance attached to various items in the market basket are being adjusted to reflect the pattern of family spending today.

## HIGHEST PAID

San Francisco. — Food clerks here now have the highest—$70—minimum wage anywhere in the U. S., the result of a $5 across-the-board, interim cost-of-living increase.

The AFL Retail Clerks International Association Local 648 negotiated the wage boost with the San Francisco Retail Grocers' Association which represents the employers of both food and delicatessen stores.

The minimum scales for a 5-day, 40-hour week are: head clerks, $75; regular clerks, $70; apprentices, first 3 months, $55, and $60 second 3 months.

A National Labor Daily? Can Be Done, If We Want It
The National Reporter
Minnesota Strike Right to Showdown
TAX DOLLAR REFUNDS WOULD CUT IT
U. S. Labor Waits Answers On Stabilization Plans
Joint Policy Group Talks to Wilson
Labor Unity Is Vital in Dominion
AFL Heads Okay UMT
The NEWS

SAMPLE DAILY LABOR PAPER.—Pittsburgh.—Eleven AFL local unions joined the CIO American Newspaper Guild to issue a one-edition "The National Reporter" to show how a daily labor newspaper might appear. The cost was paid by the Newspaper Unions Publishing Co., which published the Pittsburgh Daily Reporter during the 6-weeks newspaper shutdown here. Copies may be obtained through the Daily Reporter, 512 Commonwealth Annex Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.

## UNION MADE

Ottawa, Canada.—The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada can now obtain all its envelope paper manufactured in Canada.

The AFL Brotherhood of Paper Makers has just negotiated a contract with the Rolland Paper Co., at St. Jerome, for the use of the union's registered water and rubber union stamp marks on bonds, mimeograph, onion skin, envelopes and covers for pamphlets.

Prior to this time, the Canadian unions have had to buy union paper made in the United States.

## SIGN OFFICE EMPLOYES

Fort Worth, Tex.—The AFL Office Employes International Union has signed enough of the 3,000 office workers at Consolidated Aircraft Corp. to petition the National Labor Relations Board for an election.

# Labor Presents '51 Bill of Grievances

Washington.—In April 1907, AFL President Samuel Gompers sent to President Theodore Roosevelt and leaders of both houses of Congress what has become a celebrated "Labor's Bill of Grievances" which concluded:

"We present these grievances to your attention because we have long, patiently and in vain waited for redress. There is not any matter of which we have complained but for which we have, in an honorable and lawful manner, submitted remedies. As labor's representatives we ask you to redress these grievances, for it is in your power to do so."

In that spirit, the AFL joined other members of the United Labor Policy Committee on Feb. 16, 1951, in submitting a bill of grievances to President Truman against the "shocking" manner in which the Defense Mobilization Program is being conducted. The committee listed these grievances:

WAGES—The wage stabilization formula adopted by industry and public members of the Wage Stabilization Board is a series of penalties and restrictions imposed at a time when prices are continuing their upward rise; the formula is inflexible, inequitable and unworkable.

PRICES—The Price Stabilization Program is a cynical hoax on the American people. A freeze was announced when prices were higher than ever before in history, rising steadily; profit margins guaranteed.

RENTS—Instead of moving quickly to extend and to tighten the rent control law, the government is moving placidly toward the March 31 deadline when all rent controls expire.

TAXES—Individuals are asked to bear 68 percent of the expense of rearmament; Congress is considering raising income taxes another 20 percent on low income groups while the increase to families with incomes of $25,000 a year would be only 14 percent; many industries escaping their taxation through special privilege loopholes.

MANPOWER—No justification for the arbitrary transfer by Defense Mobilization Director Charles E. Wilson of manpower policies from the Department of Labor to his own agency other than a desire for monopoly power in preparation for the possible imposition of compulsory job controls upon the workers of this nation.

SMALL BUSINESS—Being frozen out of rearmament contracts this time.

PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT—So far, virtually the entire defense mobilization program has been entrusted to the hands of a few men recruited from big business who believe they have a monopoly on experience, good ideas and patriotism. Not a single policy decision so far has reflected in any way the recommendations of labor or any other group except big business. In many decisions, the considered recommendations of labor have been totally and arbitrarily disregarded."

# New York Building Trades Organize Civilian Defense Repair Work Units

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent AFL News Service

New York.—The AFL building and construction workers in the city's 5 boroughs are enlisting in the civilian air raid defense program where their unique skills are going to be utilized to save lives in case of enemy bombing.

Of the city's 150,000 construction workers affiliated with the AFL Building Trades and Construction Council, a minimum of 20,000 have been called for to man light duty rescue teams ready to roll round-the-clock to the scene of disaster.

The city's air raid warden service will supply 202 fully equipped trucks for an equivalent number of defense zones. The AFL unions are going to supply the skilled manpower.

Each rescue team will include 10 men—electrician, plumber, acetylene burner, carpenter, mason bricklayer, iron worker, operating engineer, rigger and chauffeur, who know what to do about dangling live wires, steam lines, damaged plumbing, wrecked structures.

Howard McSpedon, president of the AFL council, has been appointed city-wide coordinator with John J. Brennan, council secretary as his deputy.

Under McSpedon are 5 borough-wide coordinators who will organize the construction workers in the defense sectors. The commanders are: Assistant Business Manager John J. Kapp, Local 3, Electricians; August J. Keenan, business agent, Steamfitters; Michael A. Rizzo, business agent, Local 308, Wood Lathers; Dominick Aronna, business representative, Local 41, Bricklayers, and Kenneth Hannan, business representative, Local 21, Bricklayers.

The program was announced at a meeting of all the New York building trades unions, at which the AFL officials announced a full-scale recruiting drive. Already 1,300 men have signed up.

## SWITCH FROM CIO TO AFL

Apopka, Fla.—The Food and Tobacco Workers Union, formerly with the CIO, was bounced out of the Consumers Lumber and Veneer Co. plant, Apopka, Fla., when a charter of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, AFL, was installed. The members have voted unanimously to transfer their affiliation to the American Federation of Labor.

# Labor Publications Reject Phony Freedoms Foundation Prize Money

Washington.—AFL President William Green rejected a first prize of $1,500 for The American Federationist, monthly AFL magazine, awarded by a self-styled "Freedoms Foundation."

"After consultation with my colleagues, I arrived at the conclusion that it would be inadvisable to accept first place Freedoms Foundation award for The American Federationist or sum of $1,500 which you advised would be presented," Mr. Green wired W. C. "Tom" Sawyer, director of awards program.

"I therefore request you to eliminate American Federation of Labor and/or its publication, The American Federationist, from consideration in any way whatsoever in making the awards of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge on Feb. 22."

J. Scott Milne, secretary-treasurer International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, rejected a $300 award for the union publication, "The Electrical Workers Journal."

L. O. Thomas, editor "The Machinists Journal," said his organization would also decline the $200 to his publication.

The 3 publications were included in a list of 9 union publications selected for awards for their "Americanism." They occupied one-half of one page among 29 pages of awards.

Freedoms Foundation is a front for some of the most reactionary, big business interests fighting and opposing every attempt by workers to improve their standards of living by union organization or legislation.

Labor Press Association reported that it is "anti-union, anti-labor, anti-liberal, anti-democratic and is the line peddled by the National Association of Manufacturers, U. S. Chamber of Commerce and groups like the Committee for Constitutional Government."

"The Paper Maker," published by the AFL Paper Makers Union, rejected an award in 1950.

Freedoms Foundation proclaims that its board of directors "is composed of distinguished groups of businessmen, labor leaders, educators, jurists and professional people from all sections of the United States (list at end of release)."

The only labor official listed is Paul P. Milling, president Local 9 AFL Retail Clerks International Association, New York.

AUSTRIAN EDITORS VISIT AFL.—Washington.—A group of trade union editors from Vienna, Austria, complete study of productivity in American industry under Economic Cooperation Administration with visit to AFL headquarters. L. to r., seated, Wilhelm Salzar, Bernhard Birk, Hella Hanzlik, Rudolf Krizek; standing, Ernst Lakenbacher, team leader; Karl Ausch, Josef Eksl, Josef Krywult, Oskar Kovacic.

# Austrian Editors Praise ECA Help

Washington.—A delegation of trade union editors from Vienna, Austria, expressed gratitude for American aid under the Economic Cooperation Administration to their country and admiration for AFL President William Green.

The team of editors, which visited this country for 6 weeks under the ECA program and conferred with many AFL groups, was greeted at AFL headquarters by Mr. Green and a number of AFL editors.

Mr. Green extended greetings to the visitors and wished their country well in its economic recovery and resistance to communist Russia's exploitation.

Ernst Lakenbacher, member Austrian Federation of Trade Unions and editor of the press service of the Chamber of Labor, Vienna, responded.

He said the Austrians have long admired Mr. Green as "the foremost leader of the greatest free labor movement in the world."

BRIDEGROOM FETED.—Washington.—Thomas G. Walters (second from left), member AFL National Association of Letter Carriers and operations director of the AFL Government Employes Council speaking for more than 500,000 federal workers, is honored at party given by NALC colleagues prior to his marriage Feb. 24 at Oklahoma City, Okla., to Miss Jerry Lee Ayers. L. to r., AFL Vice President W. C. Doherty, president NALC; Mr. Walters, Sen. William Langer of North Dakota, and Jerome J. Keating, secretary NALC.

## NEVER APPOINTED

San Francisco.—Otto E. Never, business agent AFL Operating Engineers Local No. 3, was elected to succeed Frank A. Lawrence as general president of the California Building and Construction Trades Council.

# More Than 3 Million Workers Vote For Union Shop Under Taft-Hartley

Washington.—A total of 3,494,379 workers voted approval of a union shop in National Labor Relations Board elections in 1948-49-50 under the Taft-Hartley Act.

Under this law, unions can demand a union shop only if 51 percent of the eligible workers in a plant vote in favor in a poll conducted by NLRB.

The provision was written in by Senator Taft and his colleagues in the belief that they would wreck the unions completely. They had already forbidden the closed shop—a long-honored, responsible worker-employer relationship.

They believed that if the members of unions had a chance to vote secretly in a government election they would repudiate their union organization.

Instead, union members have voted overwhelmingly for a union shop and this form of security has spread under Taft-Hartley to many industries previously without it—happily for the unions but contrary to the evil purposes of the Taft-Hartley act's authors.

In 3 years the government has insured $3 millions of dollars into conducting 38,623 union shop elections, more than 96 percent of which went in favor of the union shop.

Besides the waste of money, the provision of the act has created one of the greatest injustices ever imposed on working men. The National Labor Relations Board, even with former General Counsel Robert N. Denham working closely with Senator Taft, found no way to conduct the required union shop elections among AFL building trades unions.

These more than 2 million AFL workers in the building trades unions are forbidden to have their traditional closed shop, denied the legal right to conduct a union shop poll because of the unworkability of the restrictive law, and yet held liable for any unfair labor practices growing out of union security contracts.

In addition the NLRB refuses to hold union shop elections in the 20 states which forbid the union or closed shop.

Compounding confusion, the 81st Congress which refused to repeal the Taft-Hartley law enacted a union shop without elections for the interstate railroad and airline industries in all of the states "notwithstanding any other provisions of any other statute or law of the United States or territory or of any state."

The 17 nonoperating railroad unions served a demand Feb. 5 on the nation's railroads for a union shop and dues checkoff.

Following is an NLRB tabulation on union shop polls:

| Year | No. | % For | Employes Eligible | % For |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1948 | 17,958 | 98 | 1,852,333 | 82.9 |
| 1949 | 15,074 | 96.7 | 1,733,922 | 79.7 |
| 1950 | 5,591 | 96.2 | 1,072,917 | 75.1 |
| Total | 38,623 | | 4,659,172 | |

Taking 75 percent—least figure of the 3 years—of the total number of employes eligible, a total of 3,494,379 workers at least voted for a union shop.

## JOHANNSEN DIES

Chicago.—Anton Johannsen, a leader of the Chicago Federation of Labor and a vice president 1935-45, died Feb. 9. From 1941 until his death he was editor and circulation manager of the Federation News, official weekly, a leader in the labor press of the Middle West.

## EGAN REAPPOINTED

Hartford, Conn.—Gov. John Lodge reappointed John J. Egan as State Commissioner of Labor, a post he filled for the past 6 years. Commissioner Egan is secretary-treasurer of the Connecticut Federation of Labor.

# Building Trades Calls Manpower Grab by Wilson Serious Setback

Washington.—The Bulletin of the AFL Building and Construction Trades Department called transfer of manpower policies from Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin to Defense Mobilization Czar Charles E. Wilson "one of the most serious setbacks which labor has had so far."

The Bulletin said that if this leads to national service legislation "it will spell the end of our free trade union movement." The Bulletin said:

"The United Labor Policy Committee had asked both Mr. Wilson and President Truman to assign responsibility for manpower to the Secretary of Labor. Their request was ignored, and Arthur S. Flemming, president of Ohio Wesleyan University, has been appointed as head of the Manpower Policy Committee, directly responsible to Mr. Wilson.

"This is the top policy-making body on manpower, and leaves the only function of the Department of Labor with regard to manpower, the job of putting into effect the policies which are determined by the committee—which in effect means Mr. Wilson.

"It is reported that Mr. Wilson wants immediate introduction of manpower controls over labor. Under existing legislation it is not possible for the government to impose compulsory controls on the civilian population through fines and imprisonment. But if Mr. Wilson wants, and gets, national service legislation to permit the government to exercise this control, it will spell the end of our free trade union movement. Organized labor must be on guard as never before.

"One of the first things which the dictators of our times, Hitler and Mussolini, had to do was to destroy the free trade union movements in their countries. The right to organize in free trade unions has been one of those we believed guaranteed by our democratic system of government, and one of the essential rights which we believed the defense effort was set up to protect."

The Building Trades monthly publication said also that "those who sponsored the Defense Production Act of 1950, and who are now administering that act, made very sure that the Taft-Hartley Act would not be weakened in any way, or its effects on labor made less onerous." It criticized Mr. Wilson:

"Top man in the defense set-up is Charles E. Wilson, formerly president of General Electric. He has been given greater powers than any single man has had before. Every labor man who has had any experience with General Electric knows all too well that it has never wholeheartedly accepted organized labor, and there is no reason to believe that Mr. Wilson represents any other point of view than that of the company he headed.

"In the past few years General Electric has spent enormous sums of money on literature intended to undermine the confidence of workers in their unions. That literature has flooded into the homes of the employes of General Electric, and of other workers.

"Any doubts as to the attitude of General Electric toward organized labor are cleared up by its attitude toward labor on Atomic Energy Commission installations which it operates, such as Hanford. It, like Union Carbide and Carbon, made it clear to the Atomic Energy Commission when it took contracts for the operation of the installations that it would brook no interference on the part of the commission in its labor relations.

"General Electric was influential in the drafting of the Taft-Hartley Act. During the months after the 1948 election, when the repeal of the act was a hot issue in Congress, General Electric hired Gerard Reilly, one of the men who wrote the act, as a lobbyist, and paid him many thousands of dollars for his activities in helping to defeat the repeal. Mr. Reilly, in turn, employed ex-Senator Ball to work with him against repeal."

# Aiding IBEW Drive, Woman Is Beaten

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent AFL News Service

Chicago.—A $50,000 damage suit was filed in Circuit Court of Cook County against a Chicago radio factory and its superintendent, accused of beating up a young woman steward for the AFL International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1031.

Defendants named are Eric Carlson, the superintendent, and his employer, Radio Industries, Inc. The factory on Chicago's North Side, was the scene of a collective bargaining election on Feb. 1, 1951.

The vote was 171 to 90 against the AFL local. Joseph M. Jacobs, union attorney, already has filed unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board.

Attorney Jacobs also filed the damage suit, in behalf of Miss Mattie Haglund, 27, an employe.

The suit charges the superintendent pulled the young woman down the stairs, threw her violently into an office and took away her union organizing leaflets when he met her on the stairs during her lunch hour. As a result, the suit charges, she was made ill, under a doctor's care and unable to work since.

The unfair labor practice complaint alleges that in addition to the physical assault upon Miss Haglund, the company permitted a company union to distribute leaflets in the building, while refusing the AFL union the same privilege.

The company union leaflets urged a "no union" vote in the election.

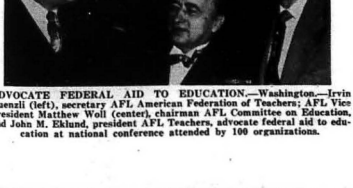
On the morning of the election, the complaint charges, the company distributed free insurance policies to the employes to wean them away from the union.

Local 1031, led by Michael F. Darling, is one of the biggest and strongest industrial unions in the Chicago AFL movement.

## CALL HEARING APRIL 2

Washington.—A public hearing will be held in Washington beginning April 2 to consider possible revisions or amendments of the regulations of the U. S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions defining "area of production."

**Support the Red Cross Fund Drive generously!**



ADVOCATE FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION.—Washington.—Irvin Kuenzli (left), secretary AFL American Federation of Teachers; AFL Vice President Matthew Woll (center), chairman AFL Committee on Education, and John M. Eklund, president AFL Teachers, advocate federal aid to education at national conference attended by 100 organizations.

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